

pared paper consists of two parts,—I, 'The Bibliography of Kansas Ornithology' (pp. 224-244); II, 'An Historical List of Kansas Birds' (pp. 244-276). The first gives an annotated chronological list of books and papers containing references to the birds of Kansas, and includes also the titles of all papers on ornithology by Kansas authors, whether or not relating to Kansas birds. The list begins with the report of Pike's Expedition, published in 1810, and includes about two hundred titles, annotated to show their bearing upon Kansas ornithology, specifying also in each case the additions made to the list of Kansas birds. At the close a 'Recapitulation' indicates, in chronological order, the date and number of species added by the different authors.

Part II consists of a concisely and judiciously annotated systematic list of the birds of Kansas, numbering 351 species. In addition to a statement as to the character of the presence of each species in Kansas, there are historical notes, giving the date of the first record of the species for the State, and the authority therefor. As regards accuracy and completeness, this is doubtless one of the most carefully prepared State lists that has yet appeared, and has the additional feature of being also historical. It is fairly free from typographical errors, but is worthy of a better typographical setting, the technical names being printed in the same uniform type as the text, not only in the 'List' itself, but in the 'Bibliography,' which latter is also devoid of the special bibliographical marks commonly employed to designate the makeup of title pages, etc. But this, we are informed, is not the fault of the author, whose wish, as manifested in the preparation of the copy, was not only disregarded, but he was not even permitted by the State printer to revise the proof sheets! That so few errors have crept in is a sufficient guarantee that Prof. Lantz must have given the printers exceptionally well prepared copy, and indicates that the care and exhaustive research shown in the bibliographical and historical phases of the paper extended to the clerical details of composition.—J. A. A.

The Goss Collection of Mexican and Central American Birds.—As is well known, it was the habit of the late Col. N. S. Goss, during the later years of his life, to spend the winter season in some part of tropical North America. His first trip was to Guatemala in 1882, and his last, in 1889, to Nicaragua and Costa Rica. While he published very few of his observations, it was, we are told, "his ambition to have his collection contain representatives of every species of North American bird." The present paper,¹ compiled by Prof. Lantz, contains a list of his collections,

¹A List of Birds collected by Col. N. S. Goss in Mexico and Central America. From the Collector's Notes; compiled by D. E. Lantz, Manhattan. Read before the Academy October 27, 1897. Trans. Kansas Academy of Science, 1896-1897, pp. 218-224. July, 1899.

with the number of specimens of each species and the locality of collection. The list numbers 256 species, and is preceded by a brief itinerary of Col. Goss's various collecting trips to Mexico and Central America. The occasional typographical errors are doubtless due to the fact that the author was not permitted to revise the proof sheets, as already explained above in the case of his 'Review of Kansas Ornithology.'—J. A. A.

Cory's 'The Birds of Eastern North America. Water Birds. Part I.'¹—The tendency of the present day, in the production of popular bird books, seems to be to reduce the 'science of birds' to easy terms, in response to, and in stimulation of, the interest of late so generally manifested in out-of-door studies. The scope and character of these attempts to popularize bird study are as varied as their authors are numerous. In the present case we have a work that is not only elaborate in its pictorial details, simple in method of treatment, and comprehensive in scope, but also systematic and scientific in arrangement. It is constructed on much the same plan as the author's previous 'How to Know the Shore Birds' (1897), and 'How to Know the Ducks, Geese, and Swans' (1898), previously reviewed in this journal (*Auk*, XIV, 1897, 418, and XV, 1898, 278). 'That even he who runs may read,' a preliminary leaf facing the title page contains an 'Artificial Key to distinguish Land Birds and Water Birds,' which, in addition to the explanatory text, contains four cuts illustrating foot structure, and full-length figures of various species of Shore Birds, Gallinules, Rails, and Herons. A preface of two pages explains the use of the 'Keys,' following which is an elaborately illustrated 'Glossary' of terms used in describing the principal parts of a bird. In the 'Introduction' (pp. 3-7) the structure of the wing, tail, feet and bill are shown by aid of numerous cuts, and the technical terms used in describing these parts are carefully defined. (We must here note the strange lapsus of 'rectices' for rectrices occurring repeatedly on p. 4.) There are also diagrams and directions 'How to measure a Bird' (pp. 8, 9). Then follows an 'Index Key to Families' of the Water Birds, with 16 cuts, illustrating the structure of the foot in the various groups. From this general introductory matter we pass to the 'Key to Families' (including subfamilies), illustrated by cuts of bills and feet, heads, and small full-length figures, the key being based primarily on the palmation, position and number of the toes, the form and structure of the bill, and general size (pp. 11-24). The text is brief, the cuts occupying the greater part of the

¹The Birds | of | Eastern North America | known to occur East of the
Ninetyth Meridian | — | Water Birds | — | Part I | — | Key to the Families
and Species | — | By | Charles B. Cory | . . . [= 10 lines, titles and list of the
author's principal works] | — | Special Edition printed for the | Field Colum-
bian Museum, Chicago, Ill. | —1899—Sm. 4to, 1 l., pp. i-ix 1-142, profusely
illustrated with halftone and line text cuts.